

# The Chimes

of First Presbyterian Church

August 2017

A monthly newsletter for friends and members of our church...



## Valuable Lesson With Fear and Emptiness. . .

John 21:7, "That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe."

A 26-year-old pilot Mike Peterson was all alone in a pit of pitch black darkness. Vietnamese soldiers were searching for him, after his plane was crashed behind enemy lines. Mike was hiding in the pit for 2 days, but could be found anytime soon by ruthless Viet Cong who could discover his hide out at any moment. It was their jungle, so they knew the possible places Mike could remain covered. He was frightened of the hunger, cold and death. However the ultimate fear was missing his mom and dad back home.

The enemies were coming closer, and his terror was intensifying. At that moment, one Scripture verse flashed through his mind. It was Mark 8:18, "You have eyes but fail to see." So, he prayed that the Viet Cong would fail to see him. Finally, the Vietnamese soldiers came as close as two feet, but they couldn't find him. To them, he was invisible.

Later he applied his personal story to transform his faith into a higher level; when he was invisible, and empty, God would come to him with His miracle and blessings.

Peter went away like the other disciples when Jesus died on the cross. He must have been disappointed in what happened to his master and felt like he had lost his life's purpose. So, he went back to his old lifestyle as a fisherman, but his life was never the same. He might have felt like he was a failure. Was he? It looks like he was. He had lost everything; his Master, his dreams, and his hope. His life and his inner being felt empty. He was sitting, naked, in his empty boat.

That's when Jesus chose to come to him, in order to teach him the most important and vital lesson on earth: It is the Lord who made his life meaningful. Jesus waited for that moment when Peter felt naked and empty, when Peter had finally stripped off all the things that he had held on to; fear, pride, and a sense of security. Then Jesus made Peter a true follower of His.



God is looking at how deep you are in your faith. God is waiting for you to be completely genuine and sincere about Him and His words. When you stand up in your nakedness and emptiness, God will come to you and fulfill you with His Spirit and grace. You will become who you're supposed to be; His true follower. So being the real you is God's priority. His blessing comes with your authenticity.

*Jay Kim*

# *It Takes a Lot of People*

Wk	Flowers For Month	Elders Communion Or Servers	Children's Message	Ushers For Month	Greeters	Liturgist	Prayer Team
8/6	Open	1) J. Butzine 2) K. Toedtli P. Dobry T. Weisgerber S. Curtiss Pastor Jay	Hannah Weisgerber	P. Nelson S. Nelson I. Colerick L. Curtiss	Donna Kutschke	TBD	Available Prayer Team Members
8/7		Communion Crossroads					
8/13	Elaine Potmesil		Amanda Mittan	Same	Joyce Butzine	TBD	Available Prayer Team Members
8/20	Elaine Potmesil		Manda Clarke	Same	Sunday in the Park	TBD	Available Prayer Team Members
8/27	Open		Kim Hielscher	Same	John and Diane Prella	TBD	Available Prayer Team Members

## **\*\*Men's Breakfast\*\***

Our Men's Life Group has adjourned for the Summer and will not meet again until Saturday, September 9th at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Make sure to bring a friend to breakfast!



*Thank you*

Laona Perrin sends her thanks to all of you who attended her Birthday Party in Bridgeport, and also to everyone who sent her cards and called her on the phone to celebrate her special day. She really appreciates all of you for thinking about her and blessing her the way that you did!

## **Statement of Receipts - July 2017**

Offerings	7/2	7/9	7/16	7/23	7/30	Monthly Total	Bal. Fwd	YTD - 2017
Pledged Offerings	2,371.00	1,358.00	1,945.00	1,253.00		6,927.00	60,116.78	67,043.78
Un-pledged Offerings	440.00	3,050.00	270.00	20.00		3,780.00	7,527.00	11,307.00
Loose Offerings	26.00	22.00	26.00	21.00		95.00	713.66	808.66
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$2,837.00</b>	<b>\$4,430.00</b>	<b>\$2,241.00</b>	<b>\$1,294.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,802.00</b>	<b>\$68,357.44</b>	<b>\$79,159.44</b>

## August Anniversaries

- 12 Russ/Pete and Barb Kendle
- 13 Jay and Susan Kim
- 14 Terry and LaDonna Grubbs
- 20 Francisco and Jennifer Jacobo
- 22 John and Diane Prella



## August Birthdays

- 2 Amanda Mittan
- 2 Eileen Spencer
- 2 Jean Maxwell
- 3 Axel Evert
- 5 Dennis DeBusk
- 5 Mickey Blair
- 7 Gary Wichman
- 10 Roger Bedient
- 11 Gene Gatti
- 13 Donna Zeller
- 17 Howard Watson
- 17 Lyle Lurz
- 17 Steve Lyster
- 21 Matt Braga
- 22 Diane Lurz
- 22 Helen Iossi
- 23 Damian Haller
- 24 Joshua Foster
- 25 Benjamin Nollette
- 26 Amber Kelley
- 31 Logan Haller



Many thanks to Diane Folland for coordinating the "Meals on Wheels" calendar for July. Thank you to all who responded to Diane's calls and made sure that those receiving the meals did not go hungry, and the hospital was not inconvenienced.

## Circle Meetings

Good Morning Circle and Serendipity Circle are on hiatus for the summer and will resume meeting again on the 6th of September. Please watch the September Chimes for information on meeting places and hostesses.

**C.T. Board will be meeting on August 16th at the church at 9:00 a.m., with Linda Johannes as Hostess.**

**Left on our own, we would have never gone to Him. He came to us for our need, not the other way around. The sooner we understand this, the sooner we can understand and appreciate Him more for who He truly is, and for all He has done for us.**

"Kept by Grace.com"

## Operation Christmas Child

You may have noticed that school supplies are already on sale in local stores. Please take advantage of these sales to purchase items to put in your Christmas boxes for "Operation Christmas Child." Barb Kendle will once again be coordinating this project. We have had wonderful responses from our congregation members to this project, and we would like to fill even more boxes this year than we have in the past. **A special note for shoeboxes this year: No candy, and no toothpaste will be allowed in the boxes.** Thanks for participating and if you have questions please contact Barb.



## Children and Youth News — August 2017

Our "Maker Fun Factory" Vacation Bible School was held Sunday, July 23rd through Wednesday, July 26th, and was offered this year to the children of our congregation. The first two days we were blessed to have ten children participating and the last two days we had six children participating. We are hoping to open the program up to children in the community next year.



Many thanks go to our teachers, Hannah Weisgerber, Manda Clarke, Susan Kim and Helen McConnell. We were so blessed to have these ladies providing instruction to our children on the topics: God made you. (Psalm 139; Genesis 1:26-2-4); God is always with you. (Judges 6:11-7:25); God will always love you. (Luke 22:66-24:12); and, God made you for a reason. (1 Samuel 25).

Also in line for thanks are our wonderful cooks, Tanner Weisgerber, Jill Green and Gayle and Julie Redecker. The food was awesome and these wonderful people really outdid themselves in providing meals and snacks for us.

The next order of business is to thank our craft ladies! We appreciate so much having Elaine Potmesil and Linda Mills agreeing to help all of our children with their craft projects. We think that they might have had as much fun as the children, and Elaine even incorporated a baking session in with one of her days of craft instruction. Several ladies came specifically to help just wherever they were needed and we want to thank Sherrie Fry and Diane Prella for being our helpers and also for Hannah, Susan and the other teachers who spent the whole morning with us helping out wherever they could.



Caeson Clarke gave us a couple of mornings out of his busy schedule to help with the games that were planned and Jaelynn was also a big help with games while she was here. Adults who made sure the games ran smoothly were Barb Kendle, Susan Kim and Hannah Weisgerber.

Special thanks to Bruce Dobry for helping in the construction of the empty tomb and the ring toss game!

A meeting is planned to evaluate VBS so we know what worked well, and what things we need to change before presenting this to the community.

And of course...one more month and we will be thinking about the start of another Sunday School year. After many, many years of dedicated service as our Sunday School Director, Barb Kendle has decided that it's time to step down and allow someone new to take over the Sunday School. Words cannot express how much we appreciate all of the time, energy and finances that Barb has put into our children over the years. Thank you so much Barb!

Barb's resignation however, leaves us with big shoes to fill. If you feel that this position could be a good fit for you, and you would like the opportunity to develop a new Sunday School Program for the children of our congregation, please visit with Pastor Jay. We definitely do not want to neglect the instruction of our children, and it will be a perfect time to get something new off the ground.

**Thanks again to all of our VBS helpers! Enjoy the remainder of your Summer!**

**Barb Kendle and Pat Dobry**



Photos by Elaine Potmesil

# Financial Faithfulness - Can God Trust in You?

...Excerpts from an article by Steven J. Cole

It is a given fact in today's world that there is a lack of people who are faithful enough to pick up a task they have been assigned, to do it well, and to follow through without complaint or harassment.

This rare quality—faithfulness should not be rare among God's people. It is in fact, a fruit of the Holy Spirit; and, it applies directly to our handling of money. Not only do we need to trust in God; He should be able to trust in us because we have proven ourselves to be faithful. The testing ground for faithfulness is money:

**Here are four biblical facets of financial faithfulness:**

## **1. To be faithful in finances, I must operate as the manager, not the owner.**

Jesus pointedly said that our money is not ours, but, "that which is another's", namely God's. God is the true owner of everything and everyone. Jesus said you cannot serve God and material possessions, or riches. He clearly means that either God or money is our master, but not both.

There is no middle ground.

Thus, one of the fundamental principles in the realm of money is: I do not own anything; I only manage the money and possessions that God has entrusted to me. God does not own just ten percent, so that I'm free to spend the rest as I please. He owns it all, and as manager of God's assets, I should be responsible.

## **2. To be faithful in finances, I must keep the Owner's objectives in mind.**

Managers must know and carry out the will of the owner. Managers are not free to take a business any way they choose, unless the owner has given them that prerogative. They must work closely with the owner, under his direction, to find out how he wants his business managed and to then carry out his purpose. The primary way that the Owner (God) wants His managers to use their money is to further His kingdom. Could somebody tell by looking at our checkbook and the way we spend our money that we are managers for the Owner who are not willing that any

should perish, but wants some from every tongue and tribe and nation to come to faith in Jesus Christ? A faithful manager keeps the owners objectives in mind.

## **3. To be faithful in finances, I must be hard-working and obedient to the Owner.**

No owner is pleased with a lazy manager who doesn't follow directions. To please our Owner, we must work hard and follow the instructions He gives us in His Word about money. I must be industrious and not lazy; I must provide for my family and have extra to give to those in need; I must be orderly with finances; and, I must be resourceful.

## **4. To be faithful in finances, I must follow through with the Owner's plan.**

It doesn't do any good to start as good managers if we get sloppy and don't follow through. Setting up a budget is a start; sticking to it and making it work is financial faithfulness. Promising to give systematically is wonderful; doing it is faithfulness to the Owner. Jesus said that the faithful servant is the one whom his master found doing his job when he returned.

Your response to this message may be to feel overwhelmed. Your management of the finances God has entrusted to you is so bad that you don't know where to begin. Don't let the enormity of the task make you procrastinate. Ask God to help you pick the most important area first, and begin there. Perhaps you have been acting as the owner, squandering everything on yourself; you need to turn your finances over to the true Owner and start managing it for Him. Maybe you need to work on a budget that is in line with the Owner's priorities. Perhaps you need to set up a filing system or a will. Maybe you are sloppy about giving to the Owner's cause.

Whatever the area, start being faithful there. Remember, if you are faithful in the use of unrighteous riches, God will not entrust true riches to you! If you are faithful, you will someday hear the joyous words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master" ...Matthew 25:21.

# DID YOU REALIZE THAT OUR CHURCH LIBRARY HAS MANY RESOURCES FOR STUDIES AND FOR PLEASURE?

**CHECK-OUT:** If you would like to check out a book, for now, we'd like you to write the date, name of the book and your name on the clipboard located on the desk facing the east wall of the library.

**WE HAVE SEVERAL CATEGORIES FOR BIBLE STUDY (ON YOUR OWN OR IN A GROUP) -**

**REFERENCE INCLUDING:** Commentaries, Books on Prayer, books on the Holy Spirit, books on the Parables of Jesus, books on archeology of the Bible, books with vivid color pictures of Bible people and the way they lived.

**BIBLES:** King James, New King James, New Living Testament, The Message, New International Version, Revised Standard Version, Life Application, Good News, The Story, etc.

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cords of a man, with bands of I	Hos 11:4	160
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to I mercy, and to walk humbly	Mic 6:8	160
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I to his neighbour as himself, is	Mk 12:33	25
which I to go in long clothing,	Mk 12:38	2309
I salutations in the marketplaces	Mk 12:38	2309

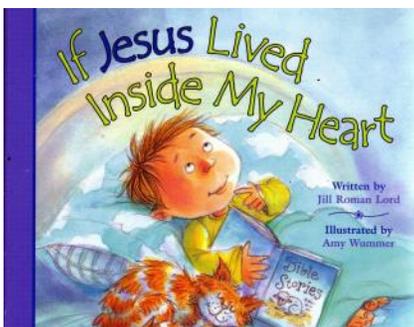
**STUDY GUIDES & DVD'S FOR STUDY & CD'S FOR STUDY** by David Jeremiah, Max Lucado, Liz Curtiss Higgs, Joyce Meyer, Terry Tykel, Patsy Clairmont, Whitney Kuniholm (Essential Jesus & Essential Bible), Rick Warren, Marie Chapien, just to name a few!! We also have a few studies on CASSETTES. There are numerous books and short study guides for use by Bible Study groups!

**NON FICTION:** by numerous authors, including Max Lucado (an entire section) and David Jeremiah, and Dr. James Dobson, Warren, and the list goes on and on!

**FICTION:** authors include, Karen Kingsbury, Lauraine Snelling, Wanda Brunstetter, C.S. Lewis, Colleen Coble, Janette Oak, Beverly Lewis, etc. etc.

**DEVOTIONALS:** There is a whole area of just devotionals. Do you need a quick devotion to read before a committee meeting or Bible Study? There are many shelves to choose from. The Devotionals are all located in the same area which is the shelves on the southwest wall of the library. There are specific devotionals for Men, Women, Moms & Dads, Families, Teens, & Children. You really must take a look!

The **CHILDREN'S BOOKS** – are located on the Northwest wall of the Library up on the small stage. WE NEED HELP FOR THIS SECTION!!!



**WE ARE IN NEED OF NEW – MEANING A COPYRIGHT NEWER THAN 2005, CHILDREN'S BOOKS!! WE ALSO NEED CHRISTIAN DVD'S CHILDREN MIGHT ENJOY!**

**WON'T YOU CONSIDER DONATING A NEW CRISTIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK OR DVD TODAY?? HELP US BUILD THIS NEW "UP TO DATE" LIBRARY FOR USE BY YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!!**

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- Website: www.alliancefpc.com - Reverend Jay Kim, Pastor -

# KID'S PAGE

## Hidden Treasure

Read **Matthew 13:44** to find out what the kingdom of heaven is like.

\$100 bill

Bible

coins

crown

dirt pile

jewels

money bag

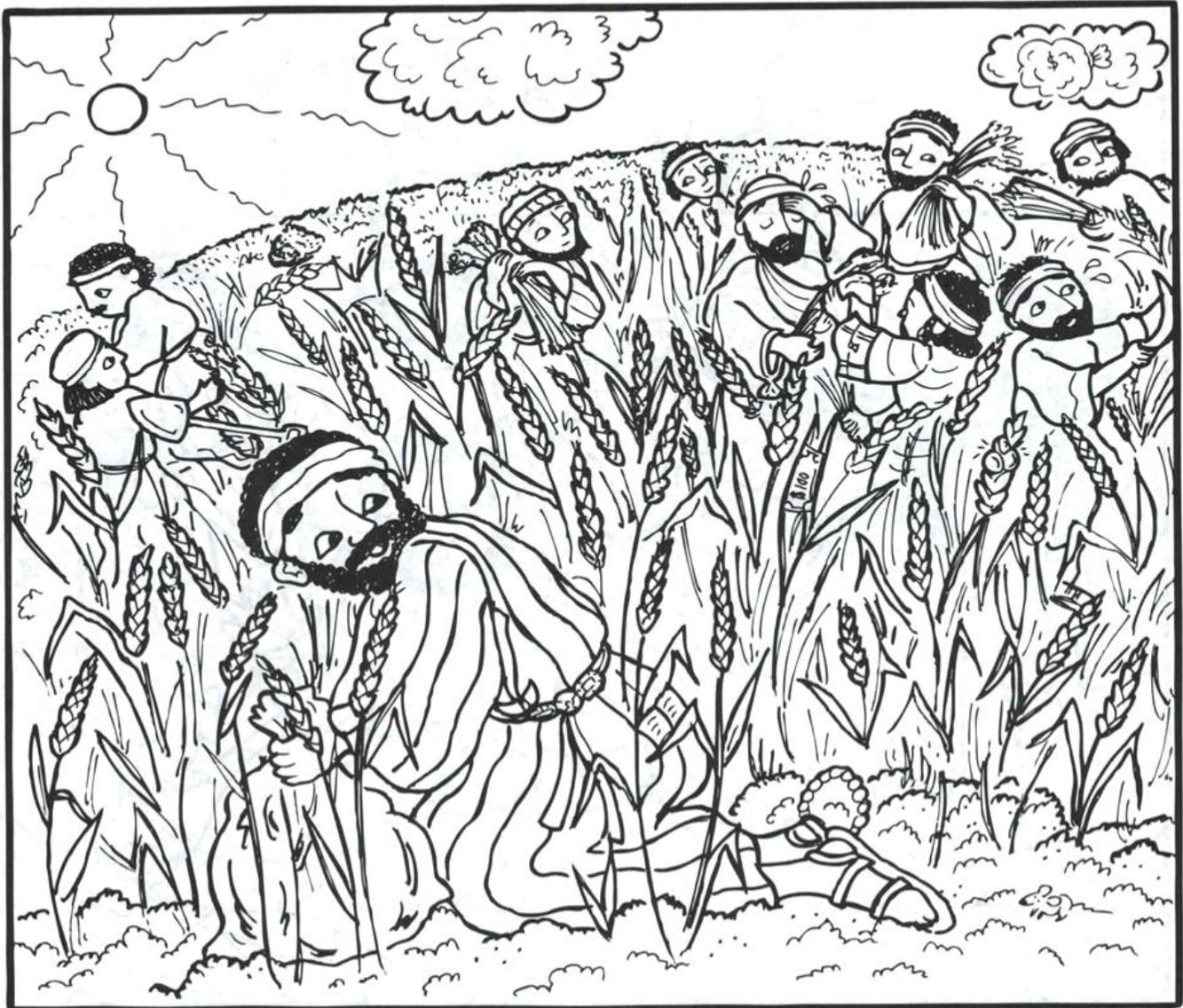
mouse

necklace

ring

shovel

treasure chest



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- Website: [www.alliancefpc.com](http://www.alliancefpc.com) - Reverend Jay Kim, Pastor -

# August 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> -6:30 Early Morning Bible Study <b>-9:00 Missions Meeting</b>	<b>2</b> Pat will be out of the office today.	<b>3</b> -7:30p Family Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> -2:00p Graveside Service for JoAnn Kemper...Family and friends invited to church parlor following service.
<b>6</b> -8:00 Coffee and Conversation -9:30 Worship, Communion --Bring Prayers to Microphone <b>-10:45 CYM, SPF, Outreach Mtg</b>	<b>7</b> -12:45p Communion at Crossroads	<b>8</b> -6:30 Early Morning Bible Study <b>-6:30p Trustees Meeting</b>	<b>9</b> -2:30 Choir Practice	<b>10</b> -9:00 Women of Faith Bible Study -7:30p Family Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Presbytery Meeting at Bridgeport...all Elders Urged to Attend</b>
<b>13</b> <b>DOVES Sunday</b> -8:00 Coffee and Conversation -8:50 Choir Practice -9:30 Worship	<b>14</b> <b>-6:30p Session Meeting</b>	<b>15</b> -6:30 Early Morning Bible Study	<b>16</b> -9:00 C.T. Meeting in the Church Parlor with Linda Johannes as Hostess	<b>17</b> -7:30p Family Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> -9:00 Worship in the Park This year we will be meeting by the Sallows Arboretum. Please bring your own lawn chairs. Coffee, Cinnamon Rolls and Juice will be provided. We hope to minister to those already in the park who are here for the eclipse.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> -6:30 Early Morning Bible Study <b>Chimes Deadline</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> -7:30p Family Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> -8:00 Coffee and Conversation -9:30 Worship	<b>28</b> -11:30 Ladies Lunch at Arbys <b>-6:30p Prayer and Worship Meeting</b>	<b>29</b> -6:30 Early Morning Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> -7:30p Family Bible Study	<p><b>Bee a good student!</b> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord... COLLOSSIANS 3:23 NKJ</p>	

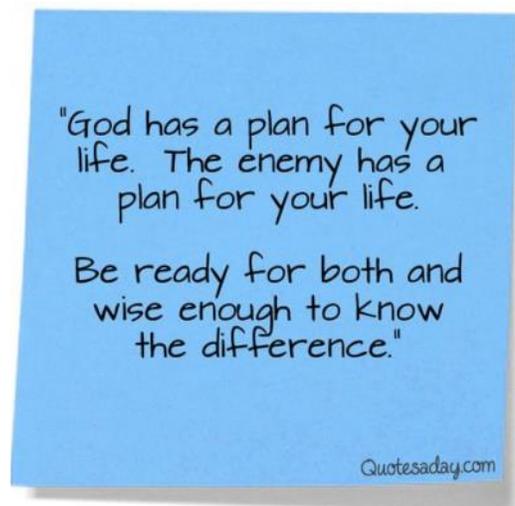
First Presbyterian Church

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Alliance, NE 69301

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August 2017

### Thoughts for the Journey—John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

*My memory of the following poem was stirred as we watched a television program with my daughter while vacationing in Charlotte, NC. Do you remember, like me, when the television station signed off for the night and the jet planes flew through the sky and this beautiful poem was recited:*

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, --and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of --Wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew --  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

*A beautiful way to think of God's heaven, and what awaits us...*